

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording, said perpendicular magnetic recording disk characterized by comprising a substrate, a soft magnetic layer on said substrate, a ferromagnetic layer formed on said substrate soft magnetic layer, having a granular structure, and containing comprising crystal gains mainly made of cobalt (Co) and grain boundary portions mainly made of an oxide, silicon (Si), or an oxide of silicon (Si), and a stacked layer formed on said ferromagnetic layer and having a first layer containing comprising cobalt (Co) or a Co alloy and a second layer containing comprising palladium (Pd) or platinum (Pt).

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 1, characterized in that the content of the silicon (Si) in said ferromagnetic layer is 6at% or more.

4. (previously presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 1, characterized in that the content of the silicon (Si) in said ferromagnetic layer is 8at% to 15at%.

5. (previously presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 1, characterized in that a spacer layer is provided between said ferromagnetic layer and said stacked layer.

6. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording and having at least a soft magnetic layer on a substrate and a magnetic recording layer on a substrate said soft magnetic layer, said method characterized by,

in a step of forming said magnetic recording layer comprising, on said substrate soft magnetic layer, a ferromagnetic layer of a granular structure containing comprising silicon (Si) or an oxide of silicon (Si) between crystal grains containing comprising cobalt (Co) and a stacked layer having a first layer containing comprising Co or a Co alloy and a second layer

containing comprising palladium (Pd) or platinum (Pt), forming said ferromagnetic layer on said substrate soft magnetic layer by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere and then forming said stacked layer by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere at a gas pressure lower than a gas pressure used when forming said ferromagnetic layer.

7. - 8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 2 3, characterized in that a spacer layer is provided between said ferromagnetic layer and said stacked layer.